

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-47 (Cancelled).

48. (New) A method for controlling operation of at least one executable operating on a blade server while having access to a source snapshot of the at least one executable, the blade server including at least one blade, the method comprising:

selecting any available one of said at least one blade for loading an instance of a running snapshot associated with said source snapshot; and

loading the instance of the running snapshot to the available one of said at least one blade.

49. (New) The method of claim 48, further comprising: selecting the source snapshot from selectable snapshots, the selectable snapshots including at least one of one or more intermediate snapshots respective of each one of the at least one executable and an initial snapshot respective of each one of the at least one executable.

50. (New) The method of claim 48, wherein selecting includes selecting a blade whose available resources being substantially equal or greater than the resources required by the instance of the running snapshot.

51. (New) The method of claim 49, wherein further to selecting the source snapshot the method comprising:

accessing the source snapshot; and

if accessing fails, selecting an alternative snapshot from the selectable snapshots and repeating accessing the alternative snapshots.

52. (New) The method of claim 48, further comprising: generating an intermediate snapshot from the running snapshot.

53. (New) The method of claim 52, further comprising: storing the intermediate snapshot in a repository adapted to store one or more intermediate snapshots each generated from a respective running snapshot.

54. (New) The method of claim 53, further comprising: instantiating the initial snapshot or one of the intermediate snapshots stored in the repository.

55. (New) The method of claim 48, wherein the running snapshot is the source snapshot.

56. (New) The method of claim 48, wherein the running snapshot is generated from the source snapshot.

57. (New) The method of claim 53, wherein the running snapshot is an intermediate snapshot stored in the repository.

58. (New) The method of claim 53, wherein the running snapshot is generated from an intermediate snapshot or from an initial snapshot stored in the repository.

59. (New) A controlling apparatus for controlling operation of at least one executable operating on a blade server while having access to a source snapshot of the at least one executable, the blade server including at least one blade, the controlling apparatus comprising:

a blade selector for selecting an available one of said at least one blade for loading an instance of a running snapshot associated with said source snapshot; and

a snapshot loader for loading the instance of the running snapshot to be available one of said at least one blade.

60. (New) The controlling apparatus of claim 59, further comprising:

a snapshot selector configured to select the source snapshot from selectable snapshots, the selectable snapshots including at least one of one or more intermediate snapshots respective of each one of the at least one executable and an initial snapshot respective of each of the at least one executable.

61. (New) The controlling apparatus of claim 59, wherein the blade selector is configured to select a blade whose available resources being substantially equal or greater than the resources required by the instance of the running snapshot.

62. (New) The controlling apparatus of claim 60, further comprising:

a snapshot accessing unit responsive to the snapshot selector, the snapshot accessing unit is configured to access the selected source snapshot;

wherein the snapshot selector is further configured to select an alternative source snapshot from the selectable snapshots upon failure of the snapshot accessing unit to access the selected source snapshot.

63. (New) The controlling apparatus of claim 59, further comprising:

a snapshot generator for generating an intermediate snapshot from the running snapshot.

64. (New) The controlling apparatus of claim 63, comprising:

a repository configured to store one or more intermediate snapshots and one or more initial snapshots, each generated from a respective running snapshot; and

a storage processor coupled to said snapshot generator, the storage processor being configured to store the generated intermediate snapshot in the repository.

65. (New) The controlling apparatus of claim 63, further comprising:

an instance generator for instantiating initial snapshots or intermediate snapshots.

66. (New) The controlling apparatus of claim 59, operable on any blade.

67. (New) A computer program comprising computer program code means for performing the method of claim 48 when said program is run on a computer.

68. (New) A computer program as claimed in claim 67 embodied on a computer readable medium.